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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

March 24, 1994

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
AGING

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for
1473

94-19

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APR - 8 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

TO: Lauren Belvin, Acting Director
Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 808
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Bruce Howell
433 Cedar Drive
Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey 08734

I forward the attached for your consideration and would appreciate receiving a written response with regard to this inquiry as soon as possible. Please direct your reply to the attention of the member of my staff listed below.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Bradley

Bill Bradley
United States Senator

Please direct reply to:

Senator Bill Bradley
One Greentree Centre, Suite 303
Route 73
Marlton, NJ 08053

Attention: G. Robertson

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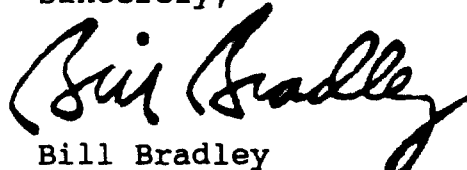
TO: Lauren Belvin, Acting Director
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Attention: G. Robertson

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ACT, OREGON
ORAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE:
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND
PUBLIC LANDS
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

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SUBCOMMITTEE:
AVIATION
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 17, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I strongly urge you to consider alternatives to a proposed increase in license fees paid by boaters who use VHF radios. It is entirely likely that the proposed fee increase will not actually raise revenues, and could even turn into a money-loser.

Under the telecommunications section of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, the FCC is required to levy user fees on a number of its services. I understand that the Commission will soon propose tripling the cost of a ten-year license for VHF-equipped boats from \$35 to \$105.

This proposal puts an onerous burden on a tiny segment of the boating community; ironically, it is also unlikely to increase revenues to the FCC. Of the estimated ten million boats that use VHF radios, only 650,000 of them have purchased the required license. It seems highly unlikely that a three-hundred percent increase in the fee will do much to boost this compliance rate. If anything, both compliance and use of these life-saving radios will go down.

Instead of imposing a massive increase in the fee for those marine VHF users who now buy licenses, the commission should explore ways of improving compliance among existing and future users. I believe that simply imposing a smaller fee on an annual or biannual basis, rather than every ten years, would dramatically reduce the burden imposed on users, increase voluntary compliance, and more than offset the small increase in administrative costs.

It's entirely possible that increased compliance at the current license rate ~~could allow~~ the FCC to waive the fee entirely for those boaters who are not currently required to carry radio equipment. This step would give a great boost to boating safety, and is heartily recommended by the Commandant of the Coast Guard. Commandant Kime wrote to the Commission last month that "The Coast Guard believes that waiver of the marine (ship) station license regulatory fee for vessels which carry radio equipment, but are not required to do so, would enhance maritime safety and promote the public interest. Therefore, I ask that the Commission waive this fee for such vessels."

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

☐ 1233 LONGWORTH HOUSE OF BLDG.
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3704
(202) 225-6416

HOME OFFICES:

211 EAST 7TH AVENUE
EUGENE, OR 97401
(503) 465-8732
IN OREGON
1-800-944-9803

☐ 215 SOUTH 2D STREET
COOS BAY, OR 97420
(503) 269-2809

☐ 612 S.E. JACKSON ST.
SUITE 9
P.O. BOX 2460
ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(503) 440-3523

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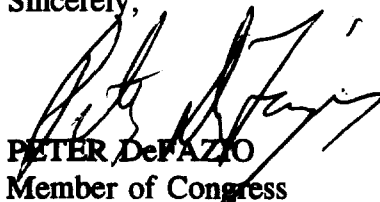
APR - 8 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Page 2

Given the likelihood that this user fee increase will not achieve the revenues expected, and may significantly reduce use of an important piece of marine safety equipment, I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal. Instead, I believe you should look for ways to make it easier for existing users to comply with the existing fee structure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter DeFazio", is written over the printed name and title.

PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress

PAD/bdv

WENDELL H. FORD
KENTUCKY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1701

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COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION

OMP
for
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94-19

March 8, 1994

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APR 5 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I have been contacted by a number of Kentucky boaters regarding the proposed increased fees for boat owners with VHF radios. Unfortunately, I do not believe the FCC has taken into account the possibility that rather than pay the increased fee, boaters will remove the radio. I understand that the FCC is not charged with safety enforcement, but I do hope this issue was factored into the decision process. I would encourage you to revisit the issue.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Russell Ford

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DISTRICT OFFICES:
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LEXINGTON, KY 40504
(606) 233-2484

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LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6251

☐ 19 U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE
COVINGTON, KY 41011
(606) 491-7929

☐ 305 FEDERAL BUILDING
OWENSBORO, KY 4230
(502) 685-5158

HATFIELD
DISTRICTS CENTER
121 S.W. SALMON STREET, SUITE 1420
PORTLAND, OR 97204

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3701

February 25, 1994

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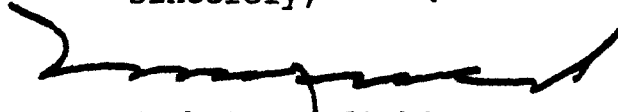
Mrs. Lauren Belvin
Federal Communication Commission
Legislative Affairs Office
1919 M Street, NW, Room 808
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mrs. Belvin:

Enclosed please find copies of letters I recently received from constituents regarding FCC docket #93-39 (A) 8025 License and Fee. I hope that you will carefully consider the concerns expressed in this letter during your review of these proposed regulation.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH:tr
Enclosure

ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER
121 S.W. SALMON STREET, SUITE 1420
PORTLAND, OR 97204

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February 8, 1994

3611 SE Lincoln St
Portland, OR 97214

Senator Mark Hatfield
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Hatfield,

I am writing to you to register my opposition to the plan to increase recreational boater's radio fees, under FCC Docket #93-39 (A) 80-25 License term and fee. This would change the cost and length of a license from \$35 and five years to \$110 and ten years.

First, as you are probably are aware, these licenses are not transferable and that the average boater only keeps a boat for about 3 1/2 years. That means that every time a boater gets a new boat, the fee would be \$110. Let me assure you that that will discourage boaters from either using VHF at all or in a legal manner.

Second, as an experienced member of a U.S. Coast Guard motor lifeboat (MLB) crew, I have witnessed far too often the decreased use of VHF and the replacement of it with CB radio. A USCG MLB can use a radio detection finder to locate a VHF but has no ability to do so on the crowded and largely uncontrolled CB airwaves. This is unsafe.

I believe that this rule change is merely another way for the government to obtain money from boaters. However, this time, this effort is very dangerous and could cost someone their life. Please register your opposition to this rule change and, literally save someone's life.

Sincerely,



Kurt R. Nelson

February 9, 1994

Senator Mark O. Hatfield
SH-711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: FCC Docket #93-39 (A) 8025 License term and fee

Dear Senator Hatfield:

As a concerned recreational boater in the crowded waterways of Portland, Oregon, I am writing to you of my objection to the proposed increase in the ship's station radio license term and fee from \$35 for a five year license to \$115 for a ten year license.

This radio license is issued to the vessel, not the operator/owner, and I believe a majority of boat owners do not keep the same boat for ten years; therefore, a ten year license is not realistic.

I also believe that the cost of the ten year license will make it prohibitive for many recreational boaters, thus raising a safety issue with the increase of boating traffic on our waterways.

Our options and instruments for communicating in a myriad of ways are increasing daily, and the increases are reducing the costs. With better communication among everyone our goal, let's keep the license term to five years with a reasonable fee.

Sincerely,



Phyllis J. Catlin
4224 S.E. Cora
Portland, OR 97206
(503) 774-5023

February 10, 1994

Senator Mark O. Hatfield
SH-711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: FCC Docket #93-39 (A) 8025 License term and fee

Dear Senator Hatfield:

As a concerned recreational boater in the crowded waterways of Portland, Oregon, I am writing to you of my objection to the proposed increase in the ship's station radio license term and fee from \$35 for a five year license to \$115 for a ten year license.

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Sincerely,



Joseph A. Michell, Jr.
4224 S.E. Cora
Portland, OR 97206
(503) 774-5023

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

AMZ

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1/7/94

MEMORANDUM

Dear Lyndon:

Here's a copy of the
Letter I Promised to
Send. I Also Faxed It
on Fri.

Thank For You hell!

Dave

P. 225-3765

Cong. Chris Smith
2440 Rayburn Bld
20515-3004

Kush

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

AM
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1/7/94

MEMORANDUM

✓ Dear Lyndon:

Here's a copy of the
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on Fri.

Thanks For Your help!
Dave

P. 225-3765

Cong. Chris Smith

12/16/7

Dec 3, 1993

Mr. CHAS SMITH

FCC EYES NEW FEES ON INTERNATIONAL BARTERS

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The Federal Communications Commission is planning
at this time to prepare a "FEE FEE" on future
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Dec 3, 1993
C. J. Schmitt

12/16/7